

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 4 - Closure

4 April 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Group

FROM :





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SUBJECT : Gulf Bureau Coverage Shift Update

REFS : FBIS/Nicosia 00164 (RYBAT)
FBIS/Amman 10193 (RYBAT)

1. Nicosia Bureau and Jordan Bureaus have given some estimates of their capabilities to assume Gulf Bureau's coverage when it closes. In general, their observations conform with the projections that MOD has given you in the past. The major addition is the good news that Nicosia Bureau has fair to good reception of Tehran Domestic Service throughout the day and, therefore, could assume Gulf's role as a backstop in phone patching Tehran casts to London when their reception deteriorates. The amount of backstop coverage Nicosia will be able to do will depend on how many Persian monitors we can transfer there, but in any case will be small.

2. One particular problem that has come up is that Jordan Bureau expects to have trouble covering Tehran International Service in Arabic  Since this is Class A coverage, we will have to explore the extent of this problem and find out if there are any alternatives -- whether Nicosia is able to do any better, and possibly if Islamabad can help out with upgraded antennas (SA definitely can not hear it now). 

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3. Jordan may also be unable to cover the Baghdad Domestic Arabic 1130-1150 cast due to reception problems. Though this is a Class A cast, JN covers four other casts from that radio, so the impact might not be too severe. We can also have Nicosia check to see if they can help out.

4. The other stations that Jordan won't be able to pick up are expected and not of serious losses: Jeddah Domestic, Salalah Domestic, and Manama Domestic (though Manama is on Intelsat and NC should be able to cover both it and Manama TV once they have their ROSET). Aden VOP has just been noticed back on the air after dropping out of sight during the 14 January PDRY coup. We are drafting up some cruising messages to determine the various bureaus' reception of VOP.

5. Jordan is investigating whether they can get Riyadh SPA by landline. This would be best, since they will be doing Riyadh Domestic and the Saudi press, but London could pick it up in the short term until Nicosia is able to get it from ROSET.

6. Our survey of Iranian and Persian Gulf media from Islamabad are progressing and we will be keeping you advised on that. These are the new developments so far, however.

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